Active Reader

"Are you an active or passive reader?" Active readers use strategies aimed at building connections. Passive readers learn in piecemeal fashion, one idea at a time. In point of fact, passive reading is futility and a time-waster; it triggers frustration and antipathy to reading, thus killing the incentive to read. On the other hand, active reading is like being '*on active mode*'; it demands the craving to read, the longing to learn and the yearning to utilise effective reading strategies. Being '*on active mode*' is a modified form of SQ4R. It is divided into pre-reading strategies, strategies during reading and post-reading strategies

Pre-Reading Strategies

Identify your purpose: I always identify my purpose before beginning to read or study. Much of what is in your textbook may be extraneous to what you need to learn. Identifying your purpose or goal will keep you focused. This way, you can sort out information that is essential from the inconsequential, so you can get the most out of the time you spend studying.

Pre-reading survey: Before reading a text, I do a pre-reading survey. This will give me an idea of what to expect in the text, so my reading will be more fruitful. Doing this familiarises me with the material, activating my thinking.

In surveying a chapter:

i. Briefly read the title, subtitles, introduction or first paragraph, each major heading, the first sentence under

each heading, the last paragraph or the summary and any text highlighted with bold print. Throughout the process, be sure to focus on general information, not specifics.

ii. Budget Time – Now, based on your survey, make up your mind on how much time you will need to read the chapter. Bear in mind the length of the text, its bulk, and its complexity in budgeting time. Schedule the time so that when you read, you have adequate time to understand.

iii. Map the chapter - make a list of headings, subheadings, and terms from the chapter. Jotting things down will fortify what you've read. You can also take the list to class for reference during lectures.

Strategies during Reading

Use Visual Cues: Most times I use the visual layout of the textbook in helping me decide what to read. If you look closely at the organisation of a chapter, you will easily locate the essentials and focus on them. If you focus on the essentials and understand them, you may not need to read all the examples provided. Often, examples are indented, separated, or in italics. You can do away with them in order to save you time and effort.

Give the Information a "Title": Often when I've read a few paragraphs or a whole page, I'd discover I'm not clear on what I've covered. If this happens to you, give the information a

"title." Write your title down and go back to confirm that it fits the information provided. Otherwise, you'll be rereading and rereading without focus or purpose.

Highlight the Text: I like to highlight important concepts as I read. Taking notes or highlighting key concepts is one way to better retain information or to more quickly access it in the future. Notes can be taken in margins or in a notebook. Read with a pencil in your hand and mark important information. For example, you can circle essentials that you want to remember. This will help you in sustaining focus and absorption.

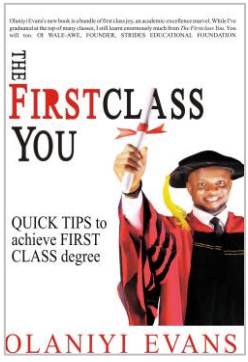
Post-Reading Strategies

Once I finished a chapter, I like to list the main ideas of the chapter or write a short summary. Ask yourself questions like, "What conclusions can I draw about what I've just read?", "Can I reorganize the information into a table, flowchart, timeline, diagram, etc.?" These questions should help you generate a summary of the chapter. Do you have any questions about what you've just read? Note them down. Are there any gaps in the information from your notes and the textbook? Note them too.

Post-Reading Review: After reading a text, take time to review the material you read. This will help to better internalize what you've learned and help you retain it for future reference. This will also help you spot what you still do not fully understand, so you can spend more time reviewing unclear or difficult concepts.

The above nuggets are extracted from the book: **The Firstclass You**. For more, you can download the book at:

https://payhip.com/b/bupt



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